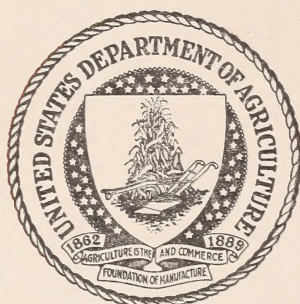


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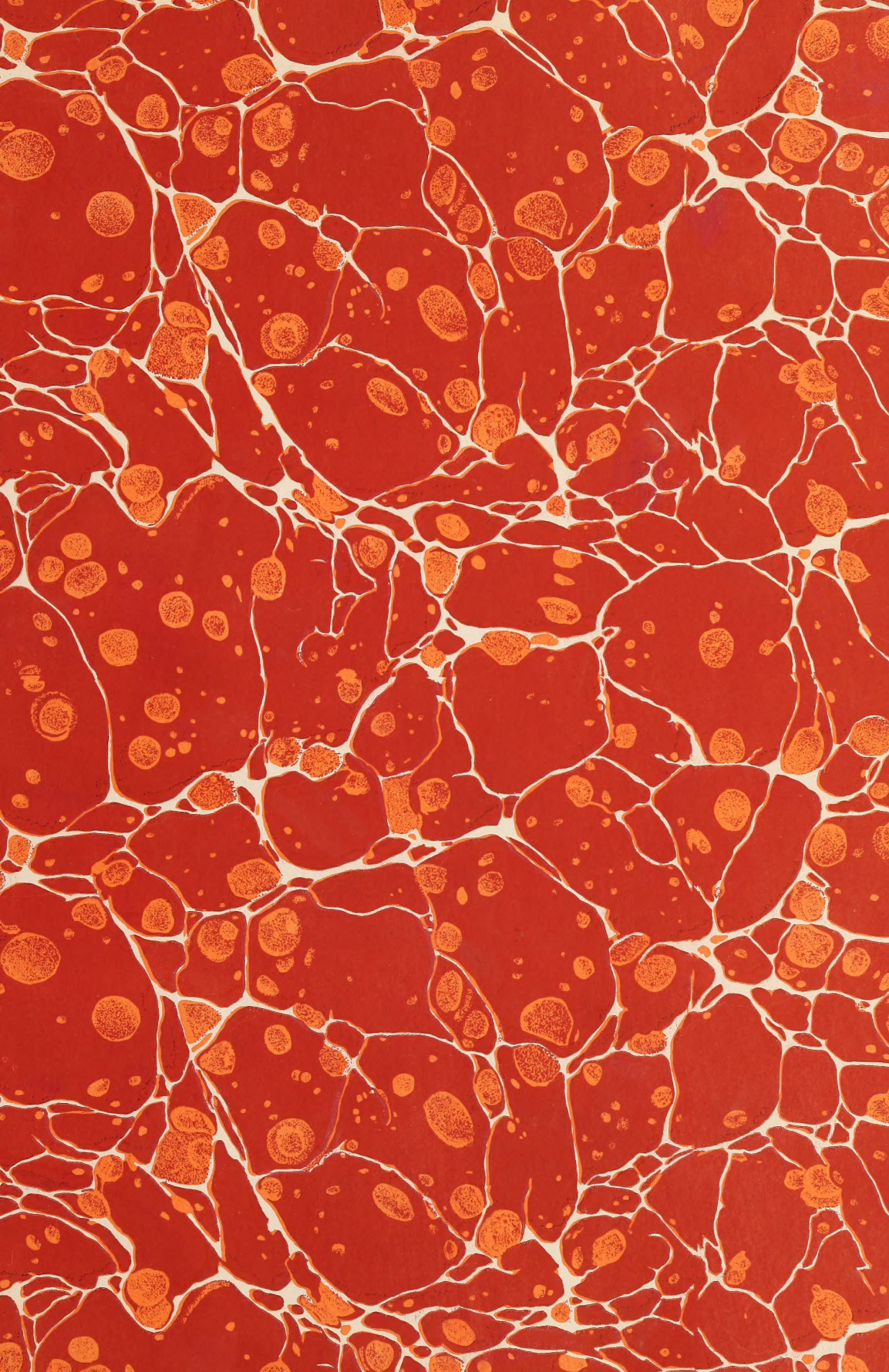


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U. S. Department of Agriculture.

By a recently enacted law I am instructed to conduct "at some point in the District of Columbia, experiments with automatic machinery for reeling silk from the cocoon." To enable me to prosecute these experiments I shall purchase a few thousand pounds of dry cocoons upon the following conditions.

No samples should be sent in before September 1, 1886, and no cocoons will be purchased before October 1st.

The highest price that will be paid will not exceed \$1.15 per pound, and this will be given for such cocoons only as will produce one pound of silk from four pounds of raw material. For inferior cocoons such prices will be paid as their quality will justify, and it must be remembered that very poor cocoons cannot be reeled and are only salable as waste and as such bring excessively low prices. In the present state of the industry in this country but few raisers produce cocoons of such quality as will command the maximum price quoted.

Persons having cocoons to sell should notify this office before shipment so that they may be informed whether or not the full quantity required has been purchased. This may be done upon the enclosed official postal card. No cocoons will be purchased except by previous agreement, and lots shipped without regard to these instructions will not be returned to the shipper at the expense of this Department. It would be wise to send with the notification a small sample of cocoons, which may be mailed without payment of postage if the enclosed franking label be used. Upon receipt of such a sample the shipper will be informed, approximately, of the price which will be paid for the cocoons. But as it is extremely difficult to judge of the value of the whole lot by the inspection of a small sample I cannot undertake to bind myself by the estimate thus given. Lots of cocoons weighing not more than four pounds may be sent by mail with one of the enclosed slips attached.

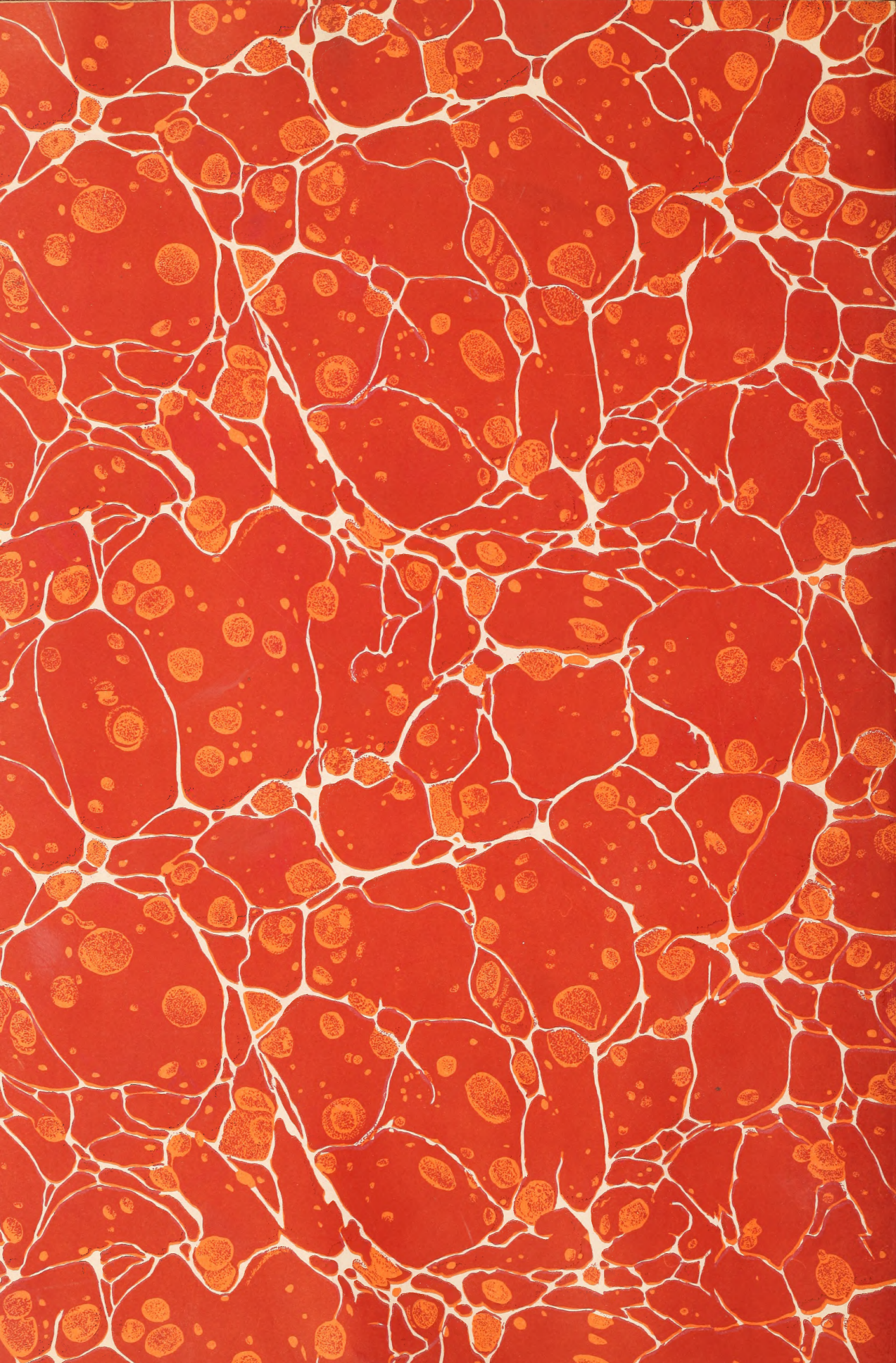
In shipping samples or lots of cocoons it is very important that the name and the address of the shipper should be placed both inside and on the outside of each parcel or box. All freight and express charges must be prepaid by the shipper.

In order to save transportation expenses it is suggested that neighbors combine their small lots in one case and ship them by freight. The lots should however be separately packed in the case and each labeled with the name and address of its owner.

No special instructions are needed as to the packing of cocoons for shipment beyond calling attention to the fact that crushing must be guarded against. No soft or foul cocoons should be placed in the case.

NORMAN J. COLMAN,

Commissioner of Agriculture.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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